

## CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A pipe or conduit collar for helping to prevent backfill from entering the clearance gap between said pipe or conduit and the aperture receiving said pipe or conduit, said collar comprising a flexible strip having a spine and two sides defining an L-shaped cross section; wherein at least one side of said collar is serrated to allow said collar to be wrapped around said pipe or conduit.
2. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 1 additionally comprising a connection means for maintaining the strip in a wrapped position around the pipe or conduit.
3. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 1 having one serrated side and one non-serrated side.
4. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 1 wherein said serrations are formed by a series of slits along the length of the strip, said slits being from the outer edge to near the spine.
5. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 4 wherein both sides of the L-shaped collar contain said slits.
6. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 5 wherein one side contains said slits all along its length and the other side contains less than 5 slits
7. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 4 wherein the slits are positioned at a 90° angle to the spine.
8. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 4 wherein the slits are positioned at less than a 90° angle to the spine.

9. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 1 wherein the connection means is capable of connecting the strip at a variety of positions for collaring pipes of different diameters.

10. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 1 made of a material selected  
5 from the group consisting of aluminum, galvanized steel, and polymeric materials.

11. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 1 wherein the connection means is selected from the group consisting of a hook and hole, overlapping holes for receiving a cable tie, hook and loop type fasteners, and tab and hole type fasteners.

12. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 11 wherein the connection  
10 means comprises a tab on one end of the collar capable of being received in one or more receiving holes in the collar.

13. The pipe or conduit collar according to claim 12 having multiple receiving holes for allowing the collar to wrapped at different diameters.

14. A pipe or conduit collar for helping to prevent backfill from entering the  
15 clearance gap between said pipe or conduit and the aperture receiving said pipe or conduit, said collar comprising a flexible segmented strip having inflexible, curved segments with an L-shaped cross section; wherein said segmented strip forms a flanged collar when wrapped around said pipe or conduit.

15. A method of installing an underground vault containing one or more pipe or  
20 conduit connections, said method comprising:

a) placing a vault in an excavated area, said vault designed to be installed underground and having one or more apertures for receiving a pipe or conduit;

b) installing a pipe or conduit in said one or more apertures thereby defining a roughly annular clearance gap between the exterior of said pipe or conduit and said aperture;

5 c) placing a collar around said pipe or conduit in a position to prevent backfill from entering the vault through the clearance gap;

d) backfilling around the pipe or conduit and vault; and

e) sealing the clearance gap via access from inside the vault.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein said vault is a catch basin.

17. The method according to claim 15 wherein said collar is the collar according

10 to claim 1.

18. A method of installing an underground vault containing one or more pipe or conduit connections, said method comprising:

a) placing a vault in an excavated area, said vault designed to be installed underground and having one or more apertures for receiving a pipe or conduit;

b) installing a pipe or conduit in said one or more apertures thereby defining a roughly annular clearance gap between the exterior of said pipe or conduit and said aperture;

c) placing a collar around said pipe or conduit in a position to prevent backfill from entering the vault through the clearance gap;

d) backfilling around the pipe or conduit and vault;

e) repeating steps (a) through (d) for multiple vaults; and

f) sealing the clearance gaps via access from inside said vaults.

19. The method according to claim 18 wherein said vaults are catch basins.
20. The method according to claim 18 wherein said collar is the collar according to claim 1.